

We Claim:

1. A method of storing voice-messages with attachments, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a voice-mail message;

receiving a location of an attachment to the voice-mail message; and

storing the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein after said step of receiving the voice-mail message, said method comprises the further step of issuing a prompt to leave the attachment to the voice-mail message.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes verbally receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes receiving the location via a keypad.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the keypad includes any one of a mobile terminal keypad, a computer keyboard or a terminal touch screen.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes a uniform resource identifier (URI).

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a public network.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a private network.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein after said step of receiving a location of the attachment to the voice-mail message, said method comprises the further step of determining a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the determined content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes at least one of text, audio, graphics and video.

11. A method of storing voice-messages with attachments, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a voice-mail message;

receiving an attachment to the voice-mail message; and

storing the attachment to the voice-mail message with the voice-mail message.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein after said step of receiving the voice-mail message, said method comprises the further step of issuing a prompt to leave the attachment to the voice-mail message.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said step of receiving the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

receiving a location of the attachment to the voice-mail message; and
retrieving the attachment to the voice-mail message from the received location.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes verbally receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

15. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of receiving the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes receiving the location via a keypad.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the keypad includes any one of a mobile terminal keypad, a computer keyboard or a terminal touch screen.

17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes a uniform resource identifier (URI).

18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a public network.

19. The method of Claim 13, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address on a private network.

20. The method of Claim 13, wherein after said step of receiving a location of the attachment to the voice-mail message, said method comprises the further step of determining a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the determined content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes at least one of text, audio, graphics and video.

22. A method of retrieving voice-mail messages with attachments, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting an attachment to a voice-mail message; and
providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of detecting an attachment to the voice-mail message includes detecting a received location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

24. The method of Claim 22, wherein said method comprises the further step of determining a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein the received location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address in the form of at least one of a URI address, a public network address and a private network address.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes at least one of text, audio, graphics and video.

27. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message comprises the sub-steps of:

providing a prompt to allow access to the attachment to the voice-mail message; and

receiving an indication whether access to the attachment to the voice-mail message is desired.

28. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message comprises the sub-step of playing said attachment without requiring a proceed-to-play indication from the user.

29. The method of Claim 27, wherein said step of receiving the indication that access to the attachment is desired includes receiving an authorized security credential.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein said step of receiving an authorized security credential includes verbally receiving an authorized security credential.

31. The method of Claim 29, wherein said step of receiving an authorized security credential includes receiving an authorized security credential that is entered by a keypad.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the keypad includes any one of a mobile terminal keypad, a computer keyboard or a terminal touch-screen.

33. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message is in audio form,

retrieving the attachment from the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message, and

providing an audio playback of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

34. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message is in text form,

retrieving the attachment from the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message,

converting the attachment from text form to audio form, and

providing an audio playback of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

35. The method of Claim 27, wherein said step of receiving an the indication whether access to the attachment to the voice-mail message is desired includes a sub-step of receiving a preferred mode for receiving access to the attachment to the voice-mail message.

36. The method of Claim 35, wherein said sub-step of receiving a preferred mode for receiving access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes receiving at least one of a facsimile number, a network address and an electronic-mail (e-mail) address.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes transmitting the attachment to the voice-mail message to at least one of the received facsimile number, the network address and the electronic-mail (e-mail) address.

38. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that a content-type of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes any one of audio, video, text, programs, spreadsheets and graphical content;

extracting any non-audio-type content;

converting the extracted content into audio form; and

providing an audio playback of audio content included in the attachment to the voice-mail message and converted content of the voice-mail message.

39. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message includes the sub-steps of:

determining that the attachment to the voice-mail message includes a compound document; and

providing access to portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form.

40. The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form includes the sub-step of providing an option of listening to at least one of the portions of the compound document.

41. The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form includes the sub-steps of:

identifying portions of the compound document that represent textual information;

converting the portions of the compound document identified as representing textual information into audio form; and

providing audio playback of the converted portions.

42. The method of Claim 39, wherein said step of providing access to the portions of the compound document that may be rendered in audio form includes the sub-steps of:

identifying portions of the compound document that are in audio form; and

providing audio playback of the portions of the compound document identified as being in audio form.

43. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail system includes the sub-steps of:

prompting the called party to input commands to select specified portions of the attachment for retrieval;

receiving the commands for the specified portions of the attachment; and

playing back the selected portions of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

44. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail messages includes providing the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message.

45. The method of Claim 44, wherein the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message includes an address in the form of at least one of a URI address, a public network address and a private network address.

46. A method of providing a voice-mail message with an attachment, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing a prompt for an attachment to a voice-mail message;

receiving a location of the attachment to the voice-mail message;

storing the location of the attachment to the voice-mail message with the voice-mail message;

receiving a request to allow access to the attachment to the voice-mail message; and

providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message.

47. A method of providing a voice-mail message with an attachment, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing a prompt for an attachment to a voice-mail message;

receiving an attachment to the voice-mail message;

storing the attachment to the voice-mail message with the voice-mail message;

receiving a request to allow access to the attachment to the voice-mail message; and

providing access to the attachment to the voice-mail message.